

Sn. 09/844,481

Attorney Docket No. FUJI:185

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 5, 14-17, 31, and 33 have been canceled by this amendment, and claims 3, 18-30, 32, and 34 were previously canceled. Accordingly, claims 2 and 6-13 will remain pending in this application after entry of the present amendment.

Non-Art Rejection

Claims 2, 6, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because 1) the language "lamination direction" in claims 2 and 6 is deemed unclear and 2) the language "equal to or" in claim 7 is improper. In this respect, the language "the closed loop is formed in a laminated direction of the first semiconductor regions and the second semiconductor regions" in claims 2 and 6 have been deleted since it is superfluous. Claims 2 and 6 already define that the alternating conductivity type layer comprises a closed loop surrounding one of the main electrodes, and that the alternating conductivity type layer comprises first and second sections, wherein the first semiconductor regions and the second semiconductor regions are arranged alternately at a first pitch in the first section, and the first semiconductor regions and the second semiconductor regions are arranged alternately at a second pitch different from the first pitch in the second section. Accordingly, the deleted language does not alter the scope of these claims. Claim 7 has been amended to remove the language "equal to or," which were inadvertently included in the previous amendment.

Allowable Claims

Claims 2, 6, 7, and 8 were indicated to be allowable if the § 112 rejection is overcome. As the present amendment obviates the § 112 rejection, these claims are now in condition for allowance. Since non-elected claims 9-13 properly depend from the allowable claims, they too are in condition for allowance.

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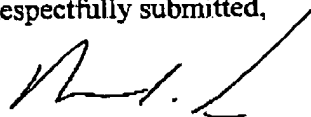
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Conclusion

Only the claims that have been indicated to be allowable and the claims depending from them will remain in this application after entering the present amendment. Accordingly, applicants urge the examiner to enter this amendment and issue an early Notice of Allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicants urge the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Date: 01/22/04

Respectfully submitted,



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